

# The Point

Week of October 28, 1998

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## Car crash hits home at Fitchburg State College

by AnneMarie Donahue

From clear across campus you could hear sirens wailing, while the blinding lights from the police and fire engines reflected off the windows of Aubuchon like Christmas lights. As a crowd of morbidly curious students watched what was unfolding in front of them, a single voice cut through the mayhem.

"What happened? Where's Joe?" A panicked, weak and disoriented voice emerged from one of the mangled cars. The voice belonged to the driver, a young student from Fitchburg. The "Joe" she was referring to was slumped over in the passenger's seat, dead.

The driver of the other car seemed in a state of shock. He sat perfectly still and didn't seem to understand what was going on. Questions about the accident were answered when one of the car

doors was pried open and out rolled a six pack of empty beer cans. The crowd responded with comments like, "typical" and "I thought so," showing that drunk driving is a concern on the minds of the student body of Fitchburg.

"This was really scary.

I lost a friend this way,"

Sandy (not her real name)

remarked after watching

this demonstration put on

by the Administrative Resident Advisor

Group. Sandy, a young student, said

that two of her friends were in a car

accident on the night of graduation; one

was badly hurt, while the other lost her

life. The driver of the car was drunk.

Other students felt the same horror



Crash demonstration was put on by Administrative Resident Advisor Group

and sadness that Sandy felt watching this scene, which to many was all too real. "I found myself getting really upset. I could identify with the girl. I was almost in tears," said Andrea Martin, a nursing student.

Fortunately, the actors in this demon-

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## Committee discusses academic policies

by AnneMarie Donahue

The Academic Policies Committee met for first time on Wednesday, Oct. 21, to discuss seven of the 20 proposals handed down from President Riccards to the All College Council. ACC had reviewed the 20 proposals in the beginning of October and sent seven of them to APC; six of them to Curriculum Committee; and some to departments for review.

The APC meeting, chaired by Barry Light, began at 3:30 p.m. in Miller Hall Oval. After holding debate on the order that these proposals should be accepted into discussion, the APC members began discussing and rewording the proposals to better fit the needs of the student body. For example, the first proposal examined by the committee was ACC No. 8, "Independent study shall not be used as a substitute of a course which is regularly offered." It was reworded to, "A regularly offered course cannot be given as an

## Dr. Grant speaks at FSC

by AnneMarie Donahue

"You think you come from a dysfunctional family? You put yourself in Joseph's shoes," remarked Dr. Robert Grant as he spoke to an intimate crowd that had gathered in Kent Recital Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Dr. Grant began his speech by relating the problems of today to the ancient biblical story of Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob/Israel.

Joseph's life was one of turmoil, but in the end he became one of the most successful figures in history. The youngest son to the leader of a large tribe,

he was able to interpret his prophetic dreams. However, his brothers became jealous of his foreseen future and sold him as a slave. Joseph was sent to work for the captain of the pharaoh's guards and by working hard and being an affa-

ble person he quickly rose to his master's favor. Potifar, the captain, made him head of the household when Joseph was only 17.

Dr. Grant stressed that this was a major accomplishment for such a young man. He said he believed that the

young people of today could learn a lesson by following Joseph's example: that by being industrious and hard-working, they could achieve anything they set their minds to.

Unfortunately for Joseph, Mrs. Potifar had her own designs for Joseph's future and made sexual advances toward him. When he

denied her, she accused him of rape and he was sentenced to life imprisonment. While in the cell, he helped out the butler of the pharaoh by interpreting a dream. Joseph told the butler that he would be released in three days and the



Dr. Robert Grant, president of the AFC

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# Halloween Masquerade coming to FSC

by AnneMarie Donahue

With Halloween just around the corner, many students are thinking of home. With the peak of fall's color having just passed, many leaves are still shades of golden brown and vibrant red, and the streets are lined with Halloween decorations. Many homes are decorated for the holiday with the traditional pumpkins, carved out into ghoulish messages, to the slightly more eccentric homes with dead rotting corpses scattered on the lawn, one live person mixed in is an absolute must for the shock effect! Those are some of the reasons to go home, but WXPL would like to offer one very good reason to stay at school this Halloween - two reasons, actually!

WXPL, the sole broadcasting entity of Fitchburg State College, is throwing

a free concert on the Quad this Halloween. The bands that have agreed to play include Big Lick, Bus, Kodachrome, The Wicked Farleys, and many more! The concert begins at noontime and ends roughly around 8 p.m. WXPL is also encouraging groups, clubs and organizations from throughout campus to become involved by organizing games, raffles, movies, bottle/can drives, and whatever else they can think of. Also they would encourage anyone interested in participating to remember that this college is surrounded by a community, and thus we can and should do things for the children of this community, such as magicians, Halloween safety, face painting and trick-or-treating!

Directly following the block party/concert will be a dance party/RAVE in the underground. The

pub will be open so bring your IDs if you plan on having a drink. Proper dress is required for entrance, so wear a costume! Door prizes will be given out for the best group/couple costumes, also for the scariest, funniest and most original costumes, so no Monica Lewinskis, please! The WXPL staff would like to point out the prizes will not be some crappy CD

from a DJ's sister's boyfriend's band, it will be money! So be creative, have fun, and enjoy Halloween Masquerade weekend!



WXPL is throwing a Halloween masquerade on Oct. 31, costumes required.

If your organization is interested in participating in the concert/block party please contact Brian Bicknell, or Jason St. Amand at the radio station (x3692).

## Crash *Continued from cover*

stration could wash off their blood and walk away as the cars, which are used by the city of Fitchburg for just this purpose, are towed away. Not as fortunate are the real people, who are not just acting to prove a point, but are actually endangered by drunk driving and lose loved ones. According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, this sort of scenario plays out on a weekly basis across the country in towns and cities just like Fitchburg.

"We worked really hard. It was good to see this turn out," said Matt Scott, resident director of Aubuchon Hall.

Matt had a hand in this demonstration. It was based on other demonstrations that he had seen while working elsewhere.

In the recent past, the school has had a problem with alcohol on and off campus. It ranged from students being too rowdy at a party to people getting attacked walking home at night.

This demonstration came just a few days before the beginning of Substance Awareness Week and may be just the sort of scare tactic needed to encourage responsible drinking.

## Sportswriter Bob Ryan to speak at FSC

by Presley Reese

The Boston Globe's Rob Ryan, one of the most celebrated and knowledgeable sportswriters in the country, will present a free lecture at Fitchburg State College on Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall. The event is part of the college's new England Writers Series.

A columnist for the Globe since the late 1960s, Ryan is the author of eight books and serves as a regular commentator on ESPN. Ryan was awarded the Basketball Hall of Fame's prestigious Curt Gowdy media award last year, the Hall's highest honor outside the induction.

A native of Trenton, N.J., Ryan has been a fixture of the NBA beat since 1969, the year he began covering the Boston Celtics. Over the course of nearly 30 years, Ryan has covered the Celtics on three separate occasions: 1969-'76, 1978-'82 and 1986-'89.

In more than 13 years on the trail of professional sports' most honored franchise, Ryan has chronicled an amazing

## Intercollegiate Band Festival slated at Fitchburg State

by Presley Reese

Three college bands will perform at Fitchburg State College as part of this year's Intercollegiate Band Festival, set for Wednesday, Nov. 4, in Weston Auditorium.

Performing in half-hour segments beginning at 7:30 p.m. will be, in order, Fitchburg State, Salem State, and Westfield State.

The Intercollegiate Band Festival has a long tradition at Fitchburg State. Now in its fourth decade, the non-competitive festival has included some of the finest college bands in the region. Nearly 150 student musicians are expected to participate in the performance this year.

"The festival gives us a chance to showcase the wonderful talent of all of our students," said Frank Patterson, founder and coordinator of the annual festival. "We cordially invite the public to attend this event."

At the concert, professor Patterson will conduct the Fitchburg State

Concert Band in Reeves' "Second Connecticut March," "Toccata for Band" by Frank Erickson, and "Trumpercussion" by Frank Tofield for trumpet quartet, percussion and band.

"With band compositions ranging from the traditional to the modern, we are sure everyone will find the festival very enjoyable," said Patterson.

Other band directors are Gregg Thaller of Salem State and Karen LaVoie of Westfield State.

Fitchburg State College band officers for 1998-99 are: Brandy Sales of Burlington, president; Brandi-Ann Taylor of Manchester, NH, vice president; Alecia Miller of Ashby, secretary/treasurer; Michael Siplas of Fitchburg, manager; and William Bourbeau of Townsend, librarian.

General admission is \$2, with children and senior citizens admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at the door on the night of the performance. For more information call (978) 665-3278.

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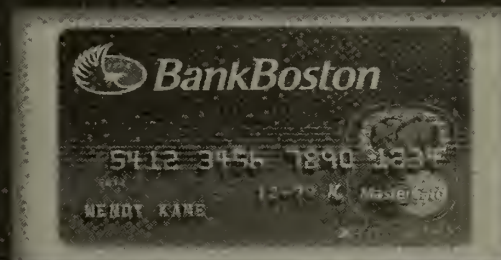
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# Young gay students face many issues

by *Melanie Creamer*

Although it has been estimated that 10 percent of Americans are gay, millions of them keep their sexuality a secret. They stay in the closet because of their fear of society's intolerance. And that fear is not unfounded.

Despite 25 years of high-profile organizing around gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender issues on college and university campuses, students still face enormous hurdles to true freedom, safety, emotional well being and acceptance.

According to the US Department of Justice, the most frequent victims of hate violence today are homosexuals. A national gay and lesbian task force survey of over 2,000 gay people found that, "Ninety percent have experienced

some form of victimization on account of their sexual orientation. More than one in 10 have been threatened directly by violence. Approximately one-third of the 2,000 respondents were assaulted verbally, while more than one in 15 was physically abused by members of their own family."

Earlier this month, yet another American fell victim to the plague of violence and hate crimes in this country. Matthew Shepard, 21 an openly gay college student at the University of Wyoming, died on October 12, after being savagely beaten and tied to a fence outside of town. According to the Denver Post, "Police have said robbery was the main motive, but the two men accused in the bludgeoning also targeted Shepard because he flirted with one of them at a bar."

"This crime really affects all of us, not only the gay and lesbian population. Hate crimes affect everyone. It's discouraging to see people, especially college students still holding onto hate," said FSC student, Jessica Roy.

To help students go beyond the type of blind intolerance which ultimately killed Shepard, it is important for high schools and colleges to have educational programs, and support groups for those who are dealing with their sexual orientation.

Formally known as GLBA, Fitchburg State's gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender group was recently renamed, 1 in 10 and FRIENDS. The mission of 1 in 10 and FRIENDS is, according to its constitution, "To enhance the FSC community and surrounding areas by offering organiza-

tion to support, understand and except the lifestyles of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and trans-gender persons."

Area high schools that have recently established similar programs include, Fitchburg High, Leominster High, Lunenburg High, Monty Tech and North Middlesex High.

The first of these schools to develop such a program was Fitchburg High. The name of their group is Spectrum, and it was established in 1995. Group members say that while they have made great strides in educating people, they have experienced resistance from students and faculty. Carole Christensen, the faculty adviser for Spectrum, said, "The students are ridiculed. There have been many incidents of harassment. We are desperately trying to make this a safe environment for the kids."

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## Moving pictures with sound come to Fitchburg State College

by *Sam Ciaramitaro*

It is often said that the overflow of drugs and violence broadcasted to young people every day is skewing our view of the world, and corrupting our vulnerable minds. Yes, entertainment is a great thing.

Currently, some of that awesome conflict and tension that is shown in movies and television is spilling over

far greater than one might assume.

Reflections is one such project that is currently being filmed. It is a story of a detective who becomes obsessed with a killer who claims the life of his own wife. An angel becomes his new partner, trying to save the detective from this obsession that consumes his life every day. According to the producer, Stephen Woods, this project has already cost the students



Mike Decisero, Pedro Tremont, Jamie Burgess, and Sean Fleury film a graveyard scene.

into Fitchburg State, in the form of student-made films. While some students have the perception that student films are unprofessional and low-quality, Film 3 students have been pouring their hearts, time and money into their movies since spring '98. With the devotion of the students, along with the high-tech equipment our school has, these projects will be

involved about \$3000. Having to work to keep this money flowing, along with a full workload at FSC, it is a wonder they are all able to coordinate schedules to put in the countless hours of filming that is needed.

The Film 3 students involved in Reflections are expecting to be finished with the actual filming this week, and hope to release their (rough-

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All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Point article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labelled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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# Ding dong, the witch is dead

by Staci Bigelow

OK, let's put the myth of the Wicked Witch of the West to rest and take a look at Glinda, the Good Witch of the East. One of the most familiar images of Halloween is that of a green, wart-nosed, evil-looking witch riding her broom off into the night. Or even better, we might envision a cartoon of Broom Hilda stirring a cauldron of squirrel stew. However, I have recently discovered that, and this may shock you, the majority of witches are in fact the very opposite of the stereotype they are grouped into.

According to the Welsh Faerie Witchcraft Association, a witch is a person who believes in the "Old Religion" that is now called Wicca, a religion of nature and fertility. Witches worship both a God and a Goddess, they believe

that all living things have a soul and spiritual powers, and that the world is composed of a network of spiritual forces. The good witches of today are resentful of society's misconception of them as satanists, devil worshipers and black magicians. The witches' creed, believe it or not, is "Love, and harm none." That kind of erases pictures of voodoo dolls and scared little dogs from your head doesn't it? A true witch, according to the Welsh association, "understands the natural law that whatever magic one performs returns upon the executor threefold, therefore making it senseless to do evil to others."

To further dispel the myth of the nasty green witch, let's look at some more detailed beliefs of witches:

- Witches believe that because there are so many different spiritual paths, each

person must find their own way, searching for the deity (God/Goddess) in whatever form it may manifest itself. They respect all such attempts to find spiritual enlightenment.

- Witches believe that the God and Goddess appear in all things. The "Great Spirit" shows itself to them as the female principle of ecstasy, fertility and creation: The Lady (or the Goddess) of Nature and the Earth; and the male principle of procreation: The Lord (or the God) of the Sun and the Hunt. These are only a few of their aspects.

- Witches believe that the Soul is eternal and all the children of the Gods reincarnate, but the form of reincarnation may vary depending upon the spiritual maturity of the individual, and

whether he or she wishes to follow his or her soul's pathway.

- Witches believe in a celebration of religion through Ritual, recognizing the cycles of the Moon and the turning of the seasons, thus becoming attuned to Nature bringing them closer to the rhythm of life.

Hmm, witches don't sound so scary after all do they? Now, a witch I am not (though some may argue with that...haha), but after researching this topic I find myself more understanding of what a witch really is. So come on, let's throw out all of our ugly witch decor and hack up more pumpkins instead! (Source: <http://www.newage-info.com/bus/cymry/beliefs.html> ....on this page you can find several links to Wicca sites)

## This one's a no-brainer!

by Rondi E. Bloom

Enemies beware! The other day, while visiting one of my favorite websites entirely devoted to obscure minutia—I found out everything that I ever wanted to know about shrunken heads. Can I take over the world now?

Head shrinkers, according to "Dear Cecil" (my minutia-man and the guru at this site), can be found in the rainforests of South America situated along the shores of the Amazon River. Tsantsa, or shrunken heads, are designated as trophies of battle.

The actual process of shrinking heads is an elaborate ritual. In 1897, explorer F.W. Up de Graff described a raid that he tagged along with; some of the inhabitants scared off, heads were axed off of the fallen. The head hunters, taking pity on a woman who wasn't completely dead (wouldn't the writers of "Princess Bride" have fun with this one?!), decided to take some care in killing her. The Jivaro raid-leader, thought better of this, and quickly cut off her head using a machete. His



account is given in detail at [www.headhunter.com](http://www.headhunter.com).

After the slaughter, the raiders returned to camp, carrying the heads either by the hair or on a stick. The prepared the heads by slicing down the back of the head, then peeled off the skin. Then, they cooked the skin and sewed up the openings in the heads. Taxidermy followed, resulting in heads that were about one-third the original size.

Cooking done, the raiders returned home to party. Drunk, the catches were shown off. Later, the raiders sold them. Tourists loved the heads creating the need for subsequent raids.

Eventually, the retail of shrunken heads was made illegal, but they do tend to show up on the black market frequently.

So, with my shrunken head knowledge (no, I am not going to divulge any of the special spices—family recipe!), am I a menace to society? Many thanks to America On-Line, [Headhunters.com](http://Headhunters.com), and the 1998 edition of the Chicago Reader; now I can conquer the world!

## Smoke-free campus lights up

by Rondi E. Bloom

As stated in the current student handbook, Fitchburg State College is a smoke-free college; "smoking - which includes cigarettes, cigars and pipes - is prohibited in all areas of the college." Despite this, there is an ash tray beside every bench, outside every exterior door and at the bottom of stairs all around campus. Walking from class to class, how many people do you pass lighting up a cigarette? Let the number of on-campus ash trays speak for themselves; there are a lot of smokers on our campus.

Why the compulsion to puff? One smoker questioned explained that on-campus smokers succumb to the stress with cigarettes. She continued, pointing out that many of the younger students who had never previously lit up experiment with tobacco products to look cool, then get hooked. "I picked up smoking at a party," admits Jessica Roy, smoker of six years. "I smoke when I'm happy because it feels good. But smoking is something to savor, not

abuse," she continued.

There is also a healthy contingent of FSC students who do not smoke, or have quit smoking. "I used to," admits a junior human services major. "I smoked for about 15 years, then quit because I got my asthma back." Another source, also an asthmatic who used to smoke, commented that once she quit, she immediately felt the improved effects. "I walked up a hill the other day without losing my breath. Quitting smoking was the best decision I could make for my health."

To inhale or not to inhale ... Turn on the television to see that the state of Massachusetts is waging a war on cigarette smoking. If you had the opportunity to see the "Nightline" on Thursday, November 18, you would have seen Dr. Timothy Johnson speaking with Pam Lafin, reluctant star of the newest series of anti-tobacco commercials that Massachusetts is in the last eight weeks of airing. She is a 29-year-old mother of two who, suffering from emphysema, has already undergone a lung transplant. Currently her transplanted lung

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## IVCF makes a comeback

by Kevin Carr

This is a very busy time of year. We all have our papers, classes, and work to do. We have jobs. We also (hopefully) have lives. We are being pulled in one direction or another. And with so many groups on campus, many of us often wonder what to join, what to just "check out," and what to totally avoid.

One group that just wants you to have a good time is the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, which participates in group get-togethers and studies about life, God, and the pursuit of happiness. This is a Christian group that is open to all interested college students and faculty. Intervarsity is a social fellowship; building relationships with peers, faculty (they are not old and crusty people who never went to college-they were our age once, right!) and the college. Meetings are filled with games, field trips, fellowship, and testimonies. Many times there are guest speakers, music, and food. This and

much more happens on Thursday nights from 7-9 p.m. in G-06 of the Hammond Building.

Many interesting events are coming up this semester. Several concerts are being planned throughout the year, and the first of these will be Kevin Doyle, who used to tour with Aerosmith and Steve Miller, as well as a few other bands you probably have heard of.

Kevin will be playing FSC on Thursday, November 19, from 7-10pm. Admission is free, and there will be food and surprises. It promises to be a great time, so don't miss out.

Intervarsity is an organization that is present in many colleges and universities throughout New England as well as the United States. If you have any comments or questions about Intervarsity, please email us at [IVCF@FSC.EDU](mailto:IVCF@FSC.EDU); visit our web page (which will be finished soon) at [HTTP://FALCON.FSC.EDU/~IVCF](http://FALCON.FSC.EDU/~IVCF) or just come on by. Meetings are Thursday from 7-9pm. Hope to see you there!

### Smoke Continued from pg 5

being rejected and shriveling; she is dying. In the same episode, it was mentioned that only one third of the 80% of the leading characters portrayed on television and at the movies actually do smoke. Anti-tobacco lobbyists are heavily criticizing the media for encouraging too many people to smoke.

Whether choosing to light up or extinguish, the reality is that cigarettes are hazardous to one's health. At its website, The American Cancer Society reports that "cigarette smoke produces more than 4,000 chemicals, including 43 known carcinogens and over 400 other toxins, including the highly addictive drug nicotine. Inhaled smoke

carries the nicotine deeply into the lungs where it is quickly absorbed into the blood and carried to the heart and brain. Nicotine affects many parts of the body, including the cardiovascular system, the hormonal system, and the brain." To take a stab at smoking, each year on the third November Thursday, the Society sponsors the Great American Smokeout. This campaign challenges smokers to take one day out of their smoking regimen and give their lungs a break. Smokers are encouraged to sign a pledge for the day, in hopes that a conscious decision is made to continue abstaining from the drug.

### Movies Continued from pg 4

ly) 20 minute movie to the public next semester or earlier. Until then, a number of other student movies are being shown tonight, the 28th of October, at Kent Recital Hall. At 7:30pm, for no cost, students can view the films "Damaged Goods," "Searching for the Hopemaker," "Kleptomania," and "With That, All Hope."

According to Michael Decisero, co-

writer and co-producer of Reflections, the general perception of film majors is that they're a little quirky, or screwy. Of course, to be involved in a film, one must have the ability to stand out creatively.

A film major myself, I take this statement as a compliment, as I look forward to what films the future will bring.

## FFY leadership discussion circles for freshman

Freshman students are encouraged to participate in the FFY program constructed especially for them on Wednesday, Nov. 4 in the Hammond Building G-rooms located off the lobby from 3:30- 4:30 p.m. Campus leaders from SGA, The Point, MassPirg, and other student organizations will be on hand to explain how they handle different situations and to answer any questions. The meeting will be constructed in conversation circles, focusing on leadership styles

for the shy, the assertive, and everyone in between.

Some of the tentative topics will include Leadership polarities: the director vs the mood sensor, the prioritizer vs the all-at-once organizer, and the delegator vs the overseer. The issues of moral leadership and the demands of different times and places as well as translations from Gardner's Leading Minds will also be included. There will be food, favors, and note taking for papers.

## From Fitchburg to Heidelberg

by Karen Alves

George Alexander, the 5-foot-10-inch point guard for Fitchburg State College's basketball team, truly believed his basketball career had ended when he scored his 1,001st point in the final game of his final season on Feb. 28, 1998.

He didn't realize how far his talents could take him. As it turned out, they took him to Europe.

Alexander was one of only 12 students chosen to play for the New England All-Stars in a series of games against European professional teams last August. The series ended with a tournament in Langen, Germany on August 23.

Alexander, a native of Norwalk, Conn., transferred from Naugatuck Valley Junior College in the fall of 1996 to play basketball for the school. He said he had decided when he was just 5 years old that he wanted to play basketball professionally, and had practiced almost every day since then.

"After the first time I played basketball I knew I'd play for a long time," Alexander said, "I don't ever say I'm better than anybody, I just go out there and try to prove it. I love the competition."

His dedication was a boon to The

New England All-Star team, which was made up of players from Assumption, Emerson, Bridgewater State, Stonehill and FSC. The team began its two week tour of Europe in Heidelberg, Germany, playing in other German cities as well as in Luxembourg and Belgium.

The game is played differently in Europe, Alexander said, with different rules than in the U.S. However, this did not cause a problem for him and his teammates.

"If you know the game well you'll have no problem adjusting to the new rules," he said. "It's not that hard, except maybe the traveling and goal tending rules."

The New England All-Stars, with Alexander as point guard, played against many European professional teams in six games, including the final tournament. They won four out of the six games, which put them in third place overall.

Alexander said he hopes the exposure gained from this trip will help bring him closer to his dream of playing professional basketball. Until that day comes, Alexander said he will continue to study communications here at FSC so he can fulfill another of his dreams: "Becoming a sports broadcaster, of course."



# Wake up and smell the dead student body

by Zak Adams

I have not come into contact with any student on this campus who is in favor of the new grading policy. Well, guess what; it's going through whether you like it or not. President Riccards has the administration in his pocket, and I really wouldn't put it past him to totally ignore the student voice and pass it regardless. I don't know about you but it makes me sick. The student voice on this campus has become so beaten down and hopeless that we just accept things because we know we can't change them. This is too important to let slide. You must speak out. How long are we going to let this President commit what I feel are gross abuses of power? Does anyone out there (beside faculty and administrators afraid of losing their jobs) really feel that Riccards

is here for us and not his own little agenda?

I recently became aware of the situation of a good friend, and a damn good professor who is being railroaded by Riccards himself. This is the kind of power he appears to wield. I feel he could do this to anyone if he wanted to. That scares me. During my freshman year, President Mara was in power. He had his flaws but he firmly stayed involved with the students. I even attended a party at his house. How many of you have seen Riccards in person? How many hours a day is his parking space empty (and how many times when he's in it is he parked illegally)? How many of you have tried to meet with him in his office, just to be denied? How many more majors are going to disappear because Riccards feels they are not necessary? How many other

great professors are going to have their lives destroyed because they don't fit into the junior high fascism mold? I wish all of you could have seen what this college used to be, even just two years ago. It's slowly going to hell in a handbasket. He can put on all the little entertaining trifles of student programs he wants. He can create his wonderful slogans all he wants ("The nickel stops here" is a good one). He isn't fooling me with these leadership programs and I like to think that the rest of you are smart enough to know a smokescreen when you see one. Placate the imbecile, and then stab him in the back when he isn't looking; that how it looks to me. I really don't believe I'm the only one who feels that this man is destroying this college. PLEASE, IF YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY, SPEAK UP!

## Warning: Year 2000 may be bad for your computer's health!

by Jessica Roy



"I went down to the Nashua River to wash our clothes today love," I say to my partner. "The water was dirtier then it has been in a while. It was green. Humph! Must have been from the sewage runoff. I wish I didn't have to wash our clothes in that damn river."

Not the pretty picture we are all used to for doing our laundry. We simply go down to our basements or local laundromat. As soon as we press the "ON" button or put our quarters into the machine, it roars to life bring into it crystal clear water swishing with your clothes.

What if this and many other luxuries we completely take for granted no longer functioned for us? Would we be able to cope for even one day? Would we know how to care for our families, ourselves?

The year 2000 is drawing nearer to us everyday, bringing with it the K2 bug, or the Year 2000 Computer crisis. According to ZDNN News Service, the bug was created by antiquated hardware and software formats that denotes years in two-digit formats, such as 98 for 1998 and 99 for 1999. The glitch will occur in 2000, when computers are either fooled into thinking the year is 1900 or interpret the 2000 as a meaningless "00". The glitch could throw everything from bank balances to elevator maintenance schedules to building security procedures out of whack. This is not what we want at all. Think of how many things we depend on draw their power and ability to function from computers. EVERYTHING!

This seemingly simple problem is of extraordinary importance for people. In fact, a Federal Reserve estimate says the cost to US businesses to upgrade computers with the year 2000 fix will be about 50 billion dollars.

## That's an insult!: Faculty response to Riccard's proposals

Dr. Richard Bisk

Professor of Mathematics

"President's proposals hurts students." That very headline is indicative of the problem we face. Did anyone notice? It contains two grammatical errors. While I don't support several of Presidents Riccards' specific proposals, I share his overall goal. We must raise academic standards at Fitchburg State College. We are not alone. Many educational institutions have similar academic problems.

Some will say that there is no problem. They claim that we are simply overreacting to the results of an unfair test. They miss the point. I didn't need to see the results of the Massachusetts Teacher Tests to know that we have a literacy problem. I know because I ask my students to write. I know because I read The Point.

You may read this and be insulted. You may believe that I am calling our students "stupid". Nothing could be further from the truth. I write this because I respect our students.

Too many educators lie to students.

They lie when they return papers full of errors without bothering to correct them. They lie when they give you a good grade even though you haven't accomplished very much.

Too many educators cheat students. They cheat you when they regularly cancel class or let you out early. They cheat you when they don't assign papers or homework. They cheat you when they tell you to take a course with a specific teacher or at a different school because it will be easier for you. Education is hard work. College is a full time job. I know most of our students need to have jobs to earn money. This is not an acceptable excuse for expecting you to learn less.

It is an insult when people don't believe our students are capable of meeting academic challenges. They come up with all kinds of reasons why you don't need to know how to write well. They claim it isn't important. They claim the computer will do it for you. These are lies. Don't they believe that, with enough effort, you are capable of learning?

On October 7, I listened to a pre-

sentation about the Massachusetts Teacher Tests and had an opportunity to read through several of the tests. I have many concerns about the politicization of the testing process and the lack of adequate information available about the exams. However, I believe teacher testing is necessary. I listened to a professor from another college criticize a section on the test that asked for corrections of grammatical mistakes. I was shocked by her comments. Isn't this what teachers are supposed to be able to do?

The ultimate question for Fitchburg State College students is: "What do you want your degree to be worth?" The College's academic standards determine the value of your degree. Every time an employer interviews or hires a graduate and learns that he or she can't spell or write well, it reflects poorly on all of our graduates. This cheats our many excellent and highly educated graduates.

Some people don't believe we should expect much from our state colleges. That's an insult.

Continued, pg 9



# Doggie Matter

by Joe Picard

I have noticed a decline in student pride on campus this fall. Students don't walk with their heads held high and proud, like they used to.

The other day, as I was walking home from class, I figured out why this is. It turns out to have nothing to do with pride. I didn't realize this at the time, but I too was walking with my head hung low. I glanced up for a moment to greet a friend of mine, when I felt a squishy-sticky-sensation under my foot. This feeling could not have been mistaken for anything other than dog mess.

Dog mess has taken over our sidewalks. Most everyone around the Fitchburg State College campus has had an unpleasant encounter with this matter. It is nearly impossible to avoid.

We all know where it comes from, but where does it go? It obviously does not remain in the same spot forever.

How many times have you stepped over a previously stepped in mess and thought, "Thank God it was not me!" Yes, it's a good thing that you are not spreading the mess, but someone else

is. This mess is turning it's self into a plague. The mess is not even limited to the sidewalks and grass, we are tracking it into buildings on our shoes.

I feel this problem needs to be solved. A large part of the problem lies in the disregard for the leash law in this city. Cats and dogs are running freely, while their owners are nowhere to be found. They are free to do their thing where ever and whenever they wish. The problem is not restrained to the stray pet population by any means. Every animal needs a place to go. When owners walk their dogs, they seemingly have no place to do "their business."

Perhaps there should be a doggie business district in every neighborhood. An empty lot reserved for dogs. They can all do their butt sniffing and leg-lifting in one spot. The dogs would love it! We could even put up some trashcans with garbage in them, for dogs to go through.

Dog mess is a serious problem that we need to deal with. It's a danger. I can imagine people slipping and falling on it. It could cause some serious injuries. Until this mess is taken care of, I'll be walking safely in the middle of the street.

# Things that go *BUMP* in the night

by Rondi E. Bloom

I don't know if it is because of my semi-fundamentalist upbringing in the middle of the southern Bible belt, or just because I had one of those really bad childhood experiences with one of the monsters under my bed, but I have always been absolutely terrified of Halloween. Yes, I know that some element of fear is required to get into the "spirit" of things, but I mean, I am truly scared of the holiday. In fact, I try to have as little to do with it as possible.

I remember the year that I was Mighty Mouse for Halloween (relax, I was four; besides, he was my hero!) and my mother had to personally inspect my candy. That was the same year that the police in my neighborhood had reported that someone was cut on a razor in a chocolate piece. That was also the year that I went to my first Halloween party, only to find that the drink of choice was ants in brainjuice. How was I supposed to know they were raisins? I still cannot drink apple juice without the shivers.

I scare easily. Sure, just like anyone else, I jump whenever someone startles me, that's normal, but I cannot even watch horror flicks. This is a very sad thing, too, because I have always known that they are pure imagination. Or, maybe that's it—that people actually have the capacity to think up things like little evil talking dolls that chop heads off and require no batteries—I never did like My Buddy! But I also put too much faith in all of the little superstitions and old-wife's tales behind the whole concept of Halloween, too.

I had nightmares for weeks after watching the Beans Baxter episode—am I the only one who watched that show?—about the kid who was demonically possessed. This kid was lying in bed, his head was turning green and spinning around, and he was taunting in that deep bass voice that I just know belongs to the devil. And let's just forget about jack-o-lanterns; I know all about those, too. Their origins are very disturbing to me. Someone told me



when I was a little kid that the faces carved on pumpkins represent the last features, right before rigor mortis, that played across the a pagan's ritualistic torture victim's face. Some children had fun carving their pumpkins with their parents, I always ran and hid, fearful they were giving me a hint.

My family had bats in our belfry. Okay, so they were in the chimney, but they were freaky. You have no idea what it is like to jump suddenly out of bed on a pitch dark night, after hearing a shrill bat-like squeak—every really frightened person can identify a bat-like squeak. I do. In desperate hopes that I wouldn't step on the shaggy arm reaching from under my box-spring, I have frantically searched for my Louisville slugger for protection from every prowling evil that has compromised my sense of security.

Let's not forget the costumes, either. It's scary enough knowing who it is that is running and screaming after you on a dark, spooky night without a mask. Yes, I admit, I believed in the Boogey Man, and again I mention that evil green-eyed hairy thing residing in the shadows beneath my bed (I slept with a night light until I was 11).

I am rather undecided about ghosts—I don't know if it is scarier to die to find an inferno awaiting you, or to discover you're fated to be a white-sheeted breath-of-a-thing that secretes green ectoplasmic goo and cries "Boooooo" all night long. Either outlook is upsetting. Graveyards, hmm. No, I do not intentionally spend much time in those either. I have always been afraid that I would tread on an unmarked, forgotten plot, only to be ankle-grabbed by some bony, Thriller-zombie and then forced to listen to monsters mashing, or watch them breakdance into song.

Halloween is the reason why I am always so thankful at Thanksgiving. I am still alive!

Gulp! I haven't even mentioned witches, warlocks, or werewolves. I just cannot go further. What can I say, but that paranoia is my middle name—after Erin, that is.

## Issues Continued from pg 4

Leominster High established a support group in 1997. Like the group at FHS, they have experienced resistance from students and faculty. Barbara Bayley, the advisor of the Leominster group, said, "We have had very mixed responses. There are good days and bad. There have been no reports of violence among our gay and lesbian students, but there have been incidents of harassments."

A report commissioned by the US Department of Health and Human Services on the incidents of youth suicide found, "A majority of suicide attempts by homosexuals occurred during their youth, in gay youth are two to three times more likely to attempt sui-

cide then any other young people. They may comprise up to 30 percent of the estimated 5,000 completed youth suicides annually. In addition, nearly all gay, lesbian and bisexual suicides occur between the ages of 16 and 21."

Young people who feel set apart because of their sexual orientation have been known to turn to substance abuse to reduce their pain, depression and anxiety. As one FSC student said, "the number of problems which arise from a lack of understanding and acceptance of gay, lesbian and bisexual people is astounding. As a society, we must put an end to the hatred, anger and violence against gay people, or as a society, we may never be free."



# Ground Zero aims to please

by Kevin Carr

It has been a very busy semester for Ground Zero. This semester many tournaments and presentations have been planned, which a number of students have already participated in. Several more are still left in the semester so don't miss out.

Some upcoming tournaments to get involved in are Flag Football, Chess, Air Hockey, 9-Ball Billiards and Darts. Flag Football has been an extraordinary success, thanks to all the participants and the supplies from the Intramural Department! There is a game just about every Sunday, depending upon holidays or weather. The next game is this Sunday, October 25, at 1pm at Coolidge Park. You may enter a team or come as a free agent, so come on down. Chess has also been an outstanding tourna-

ment, with tournaments every two weeks. The next one will be on Wednesday October 28, at 5:30pm in Ground Zero. Also, if chess is your thing, you will be happy to know that FSC now has its very own Chess Club. If you're interested, see Kevin Carr, Ground Zero Manager, or call x3350 and leave a message. Some upcoming tournaments are Air Hockey on Wednesday, October 28, at 5:30pm. The 9-Ball Billiards tournament, with the winner moving onto the ACUI (Association of College Unions International) regional tournament, being held here at FSC, on Wednesday, November 4 at 5:30pm. Darts, also an ACUI qualifying event, being held on Wednesday, November 11 at 5:30pm. Or Table Tennis, another ACUI qualifying event, on Wednesday, November 18 at 5:30pm.

Another exciting presentation is Dr. Cue. Many of you saw him in past years, but don't miss the chance to see this "Billiards Wizard" in action at Ground Zero! He will be at FSC on Tuesday, October 27 from 2:30 to 5pm. He will demonstrate various trick shots, while challenging the audience to play him in pool. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity. Also a great event is the upcoming James Bond Goldeneye Nintendo 64 Tournament, being scheduled for sometime in November. If you're interested in playing, there will be a sign-up sheet in Ground Zero or you can get information by leaving a message at x3350 (Ground Zero Phone).

Take part in these tournaments, or come down and use the billiard tables, ping pong tables, video games, air hockey, or dart board. Any suggestions for tournaments are very welcome.

## All Aboard! Next Stop: The Afterlife 'What Dreams May Come'

by Elizabeth Pacheco

"What Dreams May Come" by director Vincent Ward, centers on the subject of death and the afterlife. This topic is intriguing because everyone must deal with death and mortality during their lifetime.

Robin Williams (Oscar winner for Good Will Hunting) plays a pediatrician named Chris Nielson and Annabella Sciorra plays his wife Annie, a talented artist. Also starring in the movie, are Cuba Gooding Jr. (Oscar winner for Jerry McGuire) Albert, and Max Von Sydow

### 2000 Continued from pg 7

Many people and businesses will be affected. Even home computer users. According to CNet News, each computer operating system or 'OS' handles dates differently. Apple Macintosh systems, and many Unix based systems will not have a problem until 2038 due to the way they handle dates in relation to total seconds from a specific time. Most other operating systems handle dates in the traditional form of MM/DD/YY. The YY (two-digit year) is the problem in these operating systems. Computer systems manufactured after early 1997 will display the date correctly as 2000. However an estimated 65% of all PC's will not 'roll over' correctly due to the operating system, BIOS, or RTC problems.

This problem has spread into the realm of many businesses. According to CNet News, Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah), chairman of the Senate

Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem, stated recently "There are some six thousand American hospitals and others that are not yet prepared [for the year 2000 bug]." Bennett warned that the health care industry is lagging behind other industries in making the needed fixes, citing the Gartner group, which says more than 90 percent of individual physician practices are not aware of their Y2K problems. The Committee was formed to address issues of this nature and prepare the country and the various industries for the potential problems that could arise from this bug.

"I would not allow my family to be in New York City for millennium weekend," said computer consultant Ed Yourdon, who recently sold his apartment in the Big Apple and moved his family to New Mexico. "I expect New York to resemble Beirut if even a subset

of the Y2K infrastructure problems actually materialize," he said, according to CNet News.

Many companies are stepping up their efforts to provide computers, which are free from the YK2 virus. CNet News stated, all new computers manufactured after 1997 would be Year 2000 compliant. Operating systems such as Windows 98 will also be Y2K compliant as well. The major concern is older programs, especially spreadsheets and database programs since many do allow programmers to abbreviate year-date information to two digits.

With a little luck and a lot of hard work, perhaps we will not be doomed to a future of washing our clothes in the river, or living in cold darkness. Let your government know you are concerned about the YK2 virus. After all, it affects everyone.



Robin Williams stars in "What Dreams May Come"

(The Tracker).

"What Dreams May Come" takes the viewers on a fantastic journey through the boundless depths of the hereafter. The movie shows us that there is existence after death, and that death is only the beginning. The movie also portrays the importance of love and forgiveness, and it shows us that with these qualities and persistence, we can conquer anything.

The acting is excellent and the special effects are beautiful. The scenery in the movie is breathtaking and the scenes were dramatic and touching. "What Dreams May Come" has received countless positive reviews including "Two Thumbs Up!" by Siskel and Ebert. The movie was great and I recommend everyone to partake in Vincent Ward's journey through the hereafter.

OH ATM, ATM THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.



DOROTHY TRIES TO CASH AN OUT-OF-TOWN CHECK



prevent drinking drivers from getting behind the wheel of a car



**Jason J. Ashby**  
*Killed by a drunk driver  
on August 17, 1995  
on Route 5 in  
Great Mills, Maryland.*



**get  
the  
keys**

**friends don't let friends drive drunk**



U.S. Department of Transportation





portion of the Celtics' glorious history, including NBA championships in 1974, 1976, 1984, and 1986, and two near championships in 1985 and 1987. A 1968 graduate of Boston College, Ryan first joined the Boston Globe that year as a summer intern.

Three of Ryan's eight books were written with Celtics legends Larry Bird, Bob Cousy and John Havlicek. Ryan took a brief hiatus from the Globe in 1982 to join WCVB-TV, Boston's ABC affiliate, as a sports reporter. He joined the Globe's sports department in 1984.

Currently a general sports columnist with the Globe, Ryan has covered 20 NBA finals, 13 Final Fours, three Olympics and the 1992 Dream Team from start to finish. In recognition of his considerable talents, Ryan was inducted

into the United States Basketball Writers' Hall of Fame in 1995.

In addition to his writing for the Globe, Ryan has been a columnist for Basketball Times since 1976. He's a regular on ESPN's Sunday morning program, "The Sports Reporters," WEEL's "The Big Show," and WBZ-TV's "Sports Final."

Future speakers in the New England Writers Series will include award-winning author Robert Cormier and screenwriter Jennifer Sarja, on Feb. 23, 1999; Dr. Helen Vendler, a Shakespearean scholar at Harvard University, on March 11, 1999; and Linda Barnes, who has written award-winning plays, short stories and the now famous Carlotta Carlyle detective novels, on March 24, 1999.

**APC** *Continued from Cover*

independent study." After this amendment was made, the proposal was passed by APC and will be sent to ACC as soon as the rest of the proposals go through. ACC #11, "the end of the sixth week of classes, or prior to the 12.6 class hours for special scheduling in Continuing Education" was amended to replace "12.6 class hours" with "completion of 40% of class hours." This too was passed and will be received by ACC. The third item on the agenda was ACC #12. It read, "An Incomplete (IN) is given in lieu of a grade if a student has successfully completed at least 80% of the required course work but cannot complete the rest due to illness of equivalent disability" was to be reworded to "An Incomplete (IN) is given in lieu of a grade if a student

has successfully completed at least 80% of the required course work but cannot complete the remainder of the course due to certifiable illness, the death of an immediate member of that family, or other similarly certifiable serious circumstance." That was not past by APC and will not go back to ACC reworded in the latter manner.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 when many members had time constraints and needed to either go to night classes, or students that had prior engagements. The All Policies Council will meet again on November 17th, Wednesday, and all students are encouraged to attend to voice their concern and opinions to the council.

**Falcons** *Continued from pg12*

Jessica LeBlanc scored 2 goals in the Falcon's loss to Salve Regina.

**Women's Soccer**

With this season starting off similar to the Field Hockey teams, they too got stuck in a rut, by dropping their last 9 matches. In a season of ups and downs, the first half spelled disaster for the team. They allowed their opponents to establish an early lead, and ended up playing great defense for the remainder of the matches. With the team on their heels, they never got a chance to turn their offense loose. Leading scorer Jennifer Duncan leads the team with 17 points (8 goals and 1 assist). Kelly Tranter is second on the list with 4 goals. The team finishes up their season

at Elliot field this week with a match against Westfield State on Oct. 31.

**Men's Soccer**

Having a record over .500% has tough for the athletes at FSC this fall, and the men's soccer couldn't escape it this week. After they romped Daniel Webster 5-0, the Falcon's improved their record to 5-5. But they dropped 5 of their last 6 matches, and now have fallen out of the play-off picture.

While having a great season, goaltender Matt Juergens really stood his ground. While his record is 6-10, he's really improved his play as the season comes to a close (3.66 G.A.A. and a .736 save %). With only two games left in the season, leading scorer Nate

butler, out of gratitude, promised to remember Joseph when he was released.

"You'll get a lot of those promises, young people. Gratitude is short lived," Dr. Grant warned as he was telling the fable of Joseph. Although Dr. Grant seems to be an optimist who sees the good in everyone and everything, he is also very realistic and wants the young men and women who will enter the work force to be cautious of accepting someone's word at face value.

Soon after the butler is released and sent back into servitude, the pharaoh begins to experience prophetic dreams of his own. The butler tells the pharaoh of the inmate Joseph who can interpret dreams and the pharaoh summons him to the palace, where he relates his dreams to Joseph. Joseph tells the pharaoh that seven years of plenty will hit Egypt, followed by seven years of drought.

The pharaoh is pleased with not only the interpretation, but also Joseph's plan for rationing food, he frees him and makes him his chief assistant. Joseph is now in his mid-20's, he sends for his family and tests them to see if they've changed and they pass. The family and entire tribe move into the area of Egypt where they live for approximately 400 years.

"I believe that Joseph is the best example of leadership I can find," Dr. Grant said to the audience. "Joseph made the best of his circumstances, no matter what happened."

Joseph could, indeed, represent the best qualities in a leader we could ask for today. No matter what happened, he

kept a positive mental outlook and worked hard to make the best of the situation he was placed in.

Dr. Grant spoke very eloquently of the great leader and conveyed the idea that optimism is a powerful tool when used correctly.

Dr. Grant, who spoke as part of the Leadership in Action Forum that Fitchburg State College is presenting, earned a B.A. in history from Wheaton College. He then went on to earn divinity degrees from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, and a doctorate from California Graduate School of Theology, a school which he helped to establish. He was also awarded a diploma from the St. Paul Bible College in Minnesota.

Dr. Grant is the author of many books on religion and patriotic themes. He has made several trips to Israel where he was awarded the Shalom Award by the government.

No stranger to politics, Grant is working with former U.S. Congressman Robert Wilson and Phillip Sanchez, former American ambassador to Columbia and Honduras, on the national corporate board of the American Freedom Coalition. This is a national grassroots effort that focuses on values that effect the family and issues related to national defense. Dr. Grant is also chairman of the Christian Voice, the nation's oldest and largest conservative Christian lobby.

Dr. Grant, as representative of a leader in the traditional-values movement, has appeared on a number of national radio and television shows.

Arnold hopes to add to his 13 goals and 9 assists. The men finish their season on Friday at Westfield State.

**Falcon Football**

Coming off a last second victory last week, the FSC football squad traveled to Maine Maritime. The Mariners of Maine handed the Falcon's their worst defeat of the season 38-14. The Falcon's made the trip to Maine without their star running back, D'Andra Freeman, who was out with a sprained knee. Kevin Carlo took his place in the line-up and rushed for 110 yards on 14 attempts. The Mariners didn't serve up as good hosts in Nino Decarlois' first game back from injury. They sacked him 12 times for a total loss of 102

yards, and picked him off six times. Decarlois went 6/26 with 166 yards and 6 interceptions, he also rushed for 90 yards. The Falcon's dug themselves in a deep whole, turning the ball over 7 times on their first 7 possessions of the first half. They were down 32-0 at the end of the first half, until Nino Decarlois plunged in the endzone on a QB keeper with only :11 seconds to spare.

Maine got on the board again at the beginning of the fourth quarter, which put them up 38-6. Kevin Carlo scored a nice TD on a 49-yard scamper. McClintock made a beautiful reception for the two-point conversion, making it 38-14. The Falcon's played hard, but they didn't score again in their defeat.



# Unexpected victory at MASCAC's

by *The Dutch One*

Last Saturday, sophomore Rhalda Jansen won the 1998 MASCAC Cross Country Championship at Coggs Hall park, by beating two-time defending champ Diana Carnes from Westfield State. Jansen took an unbelievable minute and a half of her best time on this very tough killer-hill-course. Her win was so unexpected, that even coach Jellison had to look twice when a green-yellow shirt was the first one to turn around the corner for the last stretch. Jansen finished the course in a great 20:54, hereby following in the footsteps of her coach Kim Tabor, who won this title on the same course three years ago. Jansen had just set out to break 22 minutes, but everything just felt so great that she was pumped enough to go all the way.

Jansen was followed by a four-pack of Westfield runners and Cristie A.,

who came in sixth with a personal best of 21:26. Jansen and Cristie both made the MASCAC All-Star Team, and got one of those funky T-shirts.

The FSC women also did very well in the overall tournament. The title obviously went to Westfield State with its great teamwork, but the falcons did come in second, beating Salem by one point. Cristie E. came in 12th with a time of 22:55, followed by Meghan Braun and Shara Shandrowski with 24:18 and 25:13. Sarah "I loved your poster boards" Leonard finished 36th with 26:24, and Amy Paquette almost broke 29 minutes with 29:03. Stephanie Kretas and Fay Lewis took it in as #s 45 and 48 with 30:24 and 37:25.

The men's race was definitely a sight to be seen, they were all so fast. Even though the top seven runners took a little detour, the individual and team title still went to Bridgewater. So I guess they didn't shave their heads for noth-

ing! The falcons had a pretty tough meet. Kito Sysong finished the race, despite his quad-injury, with 28:48, placing 24th. He was followed directly by Ryan Cringan with 28:49. Brian "Big Daddy" Walsh finished 44th with a great 31:13, followed by Micah Hatch with 31:39. Don Keneally had a super race with 33:15, and Shaun "I do pole vault" Grier was happy it's almost time for winter track again. He took it in with a smile and 35:47 on the clock. Mark. "You're finally done baby!" Teator finished with a time of 39:35. The falcon men finished 5th overall.

Both men and women have another big one next weekend at Westfield, followed by the ECAC's on November 7th. Darren, tons of luck with the hockey team we'll miss ya! A huge thanks to the athletic department, for such a well-run championship. Good luck at the Alliance meet guys and girls, I couldn't have done it without you, and I mean that!



Rhalda Jansen holding her MASCAC cross country plaque

## Together fight, together win!

by *Rhalda Jansen*

The volleyball falcons had a very nice away-game at Keene State past Wednesday. The match unfortunately went to Keene in three sets (11-15, 9-15, 14-16), but the falcons put up a great fight. The bench was very energetic, and supported the team all the way. Marie Nordberg had the most kills of the game, and Chicks had an amazing 7(!) solo blocks. All the women dug very well, no thanks to Keene's "bad pass #26" who just had to yell "Bad pass!" whenever the falcons touched the ball. Amazingly enough she couldn't pass the ball herself, even if her life depended on it.

The falcons couldn't take home a win in a very exciting third game, they were stuck on game-point, but just couldn't finish it. Coach Paciorek was still pleased with the team's effort, "They showed off a fight all the way through the match" she said.

Last Saturday the falcons had amazing away-game against Anna Maria.

The falcons won in four games (15-8, 16-14, 10-15, 15-12), despite the absence of two of their starters. Marie Nordberg had an awesome serving day, missing only one. Chicks also had a very focused day putting down 23 kills, 19 digs, and three solo blocks!

The team had an overall great digging day, something that's always great to see in a team's game. Megan Barrett and Inori Kunimi both had a total of 17 digs, followed by Joanie Gillen and Marie with 12. Joanie and Marie were actually on the court together this match, instead of substituting each other.

In game three we were treated to a quality piece of freshman Tiffany Baker's stuff. Way to fill the positions out there Tiff! The falcons worked together extremely well, and took it home in the fourth game with 15-12.



Megan Barrett, FSC's defense specialist  
photo by Rhalda Jansen

Coach Paciorek had a somewhat lonely, but satisfying day on the bench, and said: "The team did a really good job filling the positions of the missing starters. I'm really proud of them."

The volleyball women have one more week of practice, and an away-game on Wednesday to go, to end their season with the MASCAC tournament at Bridgewater State this Friday and Saturday. Tons of luck, and show us your stuff out there!

RJ.

## Rebuilding year proves a rough one for Falcon's

by *Michael McGonigle*

### Field Hockey

In a rebuilding year, the women's Field Hockey team was off to a 6-4 start. Unfortunately, an injury plagued team got stuck in a rut, and dropped their last 5 games, falling to a 6-9 record on the year. After losing three straight to end the month of September, they won 3 in a row, by defeating Simmons College (2-1), Wheelock College (3-2), and Umaine-Farm (1-0).

It was business as usual for goaltender Rebecca Tomassian, who only missed one game all season. Tomassian was 6-6 on the year, with a G.A.A. of 1.69 with a save% of .840. Leanne Lehtinen, who was off to a great start, was blanked out in their last 7 matches. Lehtinen goes into the final game of the season with 3 goals and 2 assists.

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